

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 04295 301637Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 L-03
MCT-01 DHA-02 IO-13 EB-08 DOTE-00 FAA-00 CAB-02
CPR-01 /084 W
-----311350Z 056785 /43

R 301545Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5716
INFO AMEMBASSY ANAKARA
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 4295

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT PFOR UR US
SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER RE 1970 AIRPLANE HIJACKING
TO TURKEY

REF: MOSCOW 4187

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED, AFTERNOON MARCH 29, LETTER
MENTIONED REFTEL. LETTER POUCHED TO EUR/SOV.

2. EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS:

"SUKHUMI, ABKHAZAIAN ASSR

MARCH 23, 1977

DEAR PRESIDENT CARTER*

TWO FRIENDS, SULIKO SHAVIDZE--A PILOT OF SOVIET CIVIL
AVIATION--AND OGANES BABAYAN--A FLIGHT ENGINEER--ARE
WRITING TO YOU. WE ARE WRITING AND WE HOPE THAT YOU
WILL UNDERSTAND US AND WILL HELP JUSTICE.

"WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE CREW OF THE AN-24 AIRPLANE,
NUMBER 45256 WHICH THE BANDITS BRAZYNASKAS, HIDING
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 04295 301637Z

NOW IN THE US, HIJACKED TO TURKEY OCTOBER 15, 1970,
ON A VOYAGE FROM BATUMI TO SUKHUMI IN THE TERRITORY
OF THE USSR. THEY VILLAINOUSLY KILLED OUR COLLEAGUE
AND FRIEND, STEWARDESS NADYA KURCHENKO, SERIOUSLY
WOUNDED THE AIRPLANE'S COMMANDER GEORGIY CHAKHRAKIY,
NAVIGATOR VALERIY PADEYEV AND ME, OGANES BABAYAN.
AND IT WAS ONLY BY A FORTUNATE ACCIDENT THAT THE

BULLETS OF THE VILLAINS DID NOT SLAY ME, SULIKO
SHAVIDZE. HAD THIS HAPPENED (I WAS PILOTING THE
AIRPLANE) THEN ALL 46 PASSENGERS ON THE AIRPLANE
WOULD HAVE BEEN SACRIFICED. TO THIS DAY WE HAVE
BEFORE OUR EYES THESE AIR PIRATES WHO HAVE LOST
HUMAN FORM, THE BRAZYNSKAS -- FATHER AND SON. TO
THIS DAY OUR WOUNDS ACHE AND OUR HEARTS ARE TRAUMATIZED.

"MR. PRESIDENT CARTER* THE WHOLE WORLD, WE KNOW,
CONDEMNS AIR PIRACY AND YOU CONDEMN IT TOO. BUT
MERELY VERBAL CONDEMNATION MEANS LITTLE, IT IS
NECESSARY TO PUNISH THE VILLAINS AND PIRATES.
THEREFORE, WE EARNESTLY URGE YOU TO USE YOUR AUTHORITY
AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ACT
TO RETURN FROM THE USA TO THE USSR THE BRAZYNSKAS,
FATHER AND SON, WHO MUST ANSWER BEFORE SOVIET LAW
AND SOVIET JUSTICE. WE AWAIT YOUR DECISION AND ANSWER.

WITH RESPECT,

SULIKO SHAVIDZE AND OGANES BABAYAN

OUR ADDRESSES:

ABKHAZAIAN ASSR

SUKHUMI, AIRPORT

DOM 2, KV 16

SULIKO SHAVIDZE

AND

EREVAN 86

ULITSA SHIRAKI

DOM 26, KV 2

OGANES BABAYAN"

TOON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 04295 301637Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXTRADITION, AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW04295
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770110-0787
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977037/aaaaafox.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: efd2bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOSCOW 4187
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3138793
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER RE 1970 AIRPLANE HIJACKING TO TURKEY
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UR, US, (CARTER, JIMMY), (SHAVIDZE, SULIKO), (BABAYAN, OGANES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/efd2bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009